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WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 1977

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REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Public Information Directors and the states in their regions:

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	Room E-308	
Connecticut	JFK Federal Bldg.	
Maine	Boston, Mass. 02203	
Massachusetts	617-223-6767	
New Hampshire		
Rhode Island		
Vermont		
Region II.....	Edward I. Weintraub	
	Room 3570	
New Jersey	1515 Broadway	
New York	New York, N.Y. 10036	
Puerto Rico	212-399-5477	
Virgin Islands		
Region III.....	John P. Hord	
	Room 2460	
Delaware	3535 Market St.	
District of Columbia	Philadelphia, Pa. 19104	
Maryland	215-596-1139	
Pennsylvania		
Virginia		
West Virginia		
Region IV.....	Frances Ridgway	
	Room 317	
Alabama	1371 Peachtree St., N.E.	
Florida	Atlanta, Ga. 30309	
Georgia	404-526-5495	
Mississippi		
North Carolina		
South Carolina		
Tennessee		
Kentucky		
Region V.....	John D. Mellott	
	Room 737	
Illinois	230 S. Dearborn St.	
Indiana	Chicago, Ill. 60606	
Michigan	312-353-6976	
Minnesota		
Ohio		
Wisconsin		
Region VI.....	Les Gaddie	
	Room 220	
Arkansas	555 Griffin Sq. Bldg.	
Louisiana	Griffin and Young Sts.	
New Mexico	Dallas, Texas 75202	
Oklahoma	214-749-2308	
Texas		
Region VII.....	Neal A. Johnson	
	Room 2509	
Iowa	Federal Office Bldg.	
Kansas	911 Walnut St.	
Missouri	Kansas City, Mo. 64106	
Nebraska	816-374-5481	
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Montana	1961 Stout St.	
North Dakota	Denver, Co. 80294	
South Dakota	303-837-4235	
Utah		
Wyoming		
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California	450 Golden Gate Ave.	
Hawaii	San Francisco, Calif. 9410.	
Nevada	415-556-3423	
Region X.....	Jack Strickland	
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Alaska	Federal Office Bldg.	
Idaho	909 First Ave.	
Oregon	Seattle, Wash. 98174	
Washington	206-442-7620	

Week of August 29, 1977

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS EMPLOY MANY OF 447,500 IN PSE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Out-of-the-ordinary occupations and projects are turning up all over the country among the 447,500 Public Service Employment (PSE) jobs local governments have filled to date with federal funds, Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall.

A recent amendment to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) requires that projects funded under Title VI provide services that communities would not otherwise be able to offer because of revenue limitations.

"For this reason," Marshall said, "many of the new projects supported by Title VI funds are in the 'quality of life' area, that is, providing services wanted and needed by the people but for which local funding was not available.

"A number of the projects are in the creative arts, for instance, such as developing museum exhibits and setting up music appreciation courses for elementary school children. Some are for restoration of historical landmarks, others give assistance to the sick and elderly, and still others focus on improving the environment and preventing the depletion of our natural resources," the Secretary said.

The PSE program has hired 149,640 persons in the 12 weeks since President Carter signed the Economic Stimulus Appropriation Act, which funded an expansion of the program from 310,000 to 725,000 jobs through fiscal 1978.

Of the 447,500 employed as of Aug. 5, there were 368,300 working under CETA Title VI and 79,200 under Title II.

Average annual salary for all participants is about $7,300. Fringe benefits, training, and administrative costs increase the annual cost per employee to about $8,300.

Some 120,000 of the participants are employed on 15,000 special PSE projects. To qualify for a job on a project, a person must meet low-income standards, residence requirements, and (1) have been unemployed 15 of the past 20 weeks, (2) collected unemployment compensation for 15 of the past 20 weeks, (3) exhausted unemployment compensation and be unemployed, or (4) be a member of a family receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

(More)

Of 10,100 projects analyzed so far, about 80 percent are administered by public agencies and 20 percent by private nonprofit organizations. Their average duration is nearly 9 months. There are 69,400 participants employed on the 10,100 projects, an average of 7 each. Public service functions represented are as follows:

Public Service Function	Percent of Projects
Public Works	18
Environmental Quality	17
Social Services	13
Education	12
Parks and Recreation	11
Housing	5
Health and Hospitals	5
Transportation	4
Arts	4
Fire Protection	3
Law Enforcement	3
Miscellaneous	5

The summaries indicate that about 15 percent of the jobs are supervisory and 85 percent nonsupervisory.

# # #

WEEK OF AUGUST 29. 1977

130 CETA PRIME SPONSORS TO GET ADDITIONAL
TITLE VI PUBLIC JOBS FUNDS

WASHINGTON -- One hundred thirty states, counties, and cities operating public service employment (PSE) programs under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) are set to receive additional Federal funds totalling almost $80 million.

The 130 CETA prime sponsors will receive the additional money from the Secretary of Labor's Title VI discretionary funds to compensate for "insufficient allocations to sustain their June 30, 1976 enrollment levels."

The allocations were made at the direction of the Senate Appropriation Committee to compensate those prime sponsors who would have received more funds if another method of calculating allocations had been followed by the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

The ETA distributed $6.5 billion in CETA Title II and VI funds to sponsors after the President signed the Economic Stimulus Appropriation May 13, increasing public service jobs from 310,000 to 725,000 and maintaining them throughout fiscal 1978.

These allocations are from the $100 million in Title VI discretionary funds retained in May by the Department for the purpose of adjusting individual prime sponsor's shares. As required by law, allocations of discretionary funds are treated as proposals and must be published in the Federal Register with a 30-day comment period before listing released to prime sponsors.

Attached is a list of 130 sponsors and the additional funds they would receive.

(More)

TITLE VI DISCRETIONARY

REGION I	
CONNECTICUT	
BRIDGEPORT CONSORTIUM	$432,733
HARTFORD CONSORTIUM	146,443
MAINE	
CUMBERLAND COUNTY	335,882
REGION II	
NEW JERSEY	
ATLANTIC COUNTY	286,871
BURLINGTON COUNTY	175,658
HUDSON CO CRST	600,042
OCEAN COUNTY	82,529
TRENTON CITY	146,823
NEW YORK	
BUFFALO CITY	1,190,928
ONEIDA COUNTY	137,306
ORANGE COUNTY	204,219
SARATOGA COUNTY	65,340
STEUBEN COUNTY	9,267
PUERTO RICO	
BAYAMON MUNICIPIO	305,122
CAGUAS MUNICIPIO	132,482
MAYAGUEZ MUNICIPIO	591,242
PONCE MUNICIPIO	333,478
BALANCE OF PUERTO RICO	3,376,176
REGION III	
DELAWARE	
WILMINGTON CITY	230,685
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1,595,883

(more)

TITLE VI DISCRETIONARY

MARYLAND	
BALANCE OF MARYLAND	$ 112,225
PENNSYLVANIA	
LEHIGH VALLEY CONSORTIUM	135,421
PHILADELPHIA CITY/COUNTY	3,961,310
BAL. OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY	74,480
SCRANTON CITY	20,136
LUZERNE COUNTY	242,230
PITTSBURGH CITY	416,984
SOUTHERN ALLEGANY CSRT	97,352
WEST VIRGINIA	
WEST VIRGINIA STATEWIDE	4,589,792
REGION IV	
FLORIDA	
BALANCE OF FLORIDA	13,956
BREVARD COUNTY	551,311
ESCAMBIA COUNTY	8,888
HEARTLAND MANPOWER CSRT	412,041
PALM BEACH COUNTY	213,663
GEORGIA	
CSRA CONSORTIUM	142,692
ATLANTA CITY	1,153,203
COLUMBUS AREA CONSORTIUM	100,914
MID GEORGIA CONSORTIUM	33,902
KENTUCKY	
BALANCE OF KENTUCKY	364,824
NORTH CAROLINA	
CHARLOTTE CITY	115,791

(more)

TITLE VI DISCRETIONARY

DURHAM CONSORTIUM	94,356
RALEIGH CONSORTIUM	48,881
WINSTON-SALEM CONSORTIUM	582,713
DAVIDSON COUNTY	18,216
SOUTH CAROLINA	
SOUTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE	4,158,838
TENNESSEE	
CHATTANOOGA CITY	39,135
BAL. OF HAMILTON COUNTY	68,315
REGION V	
ILLINOIS	
MADISON COUNTY CONSORTIUM	393,942
ST. CLAIR CONSORTIUM	50,143
EAST ST. LOUIS CITY	877,514
SHAWNEE CONSORTIUM	733,861
INDIANA	
ELKHART COUNTY	446,529
SOUTHWESTERN CONSORTIUM	411,103
MICHIGAN	
FLINT/GENESSEE CONSORTIUM	747,070
JACKSON CONSORTIUM	241,074
KENT CONSORTIUM	788,620
DETROIT CITY	230,600
BAY COUNTY	16,000
CALHOUN COUNTY	86,197
BAL OF MACOMB COUNTY	39,685
OAKLAND COUNTY	687,181
OTTAWA COUNTY	101,394
SAGINAW COUNTY	239,708
ST. CLAIR COUNTY	2,813,578

(more)

TITLE VI DISCRETIONARY

ANN ARBOR CITY	$ 370,259
MINNESOTA	
DAKOTA COUNTY	180,620
ST. PAUL CITY	730,375
QUAD COUNTIES CSRT	274,628
REGION III CONSORTIUM	130,966
BALANCE OF MINNESOTA	898,717
MINNESOTA RURAL CEP	1,404,096
BAL OF HENNEPIN COUNTY	583,984
MINNEAPOLIS CITY	50,167
OHIO	
LORAIN COUNTY	3,063
LAKE/ASHTABULA CSRT	428,980
PORTAGE COUNTY	98,545
WISCONSIN	
ROCK COUNTY	157,448
MILWAUKEE COUNTY	495,607
MADISON/DANE CONSORTIUM	213,905
BALANCE OF WISCONSIN	713,684
REGION VI	
LOUISIANA	
RAPIDES PARISH	57,364
BATON ROUGE CITY	47,685
CALCASIEU/JEFF. CONSORTIUM	385,100
NEW ORLEANS CITY	2,554,443
JEFFERSON PARISH	326,763
BALANCE OF LOUISIANA	2,830,083
NEW MEXICO	
ALBUQUERQUE CONSORTIUM	900,020
BALANCE OF NEW MEXICO	732,324

(MORE)

TITLE VI DISCRETIONARY

OKLAHOMA	
BAL OF CLEVELAND COUNTY	$ 827,784
TEXAS	
TEX PANHANDLE MANPCSRT	25,000
CAMERON COUNTY	261,457
BAL OF DALLAS COUNTY	165,456
LUBBOCK CITY	129,351
WEST CENTRAL TEXAS CSRT	202,826
BAL OF HARRIS COUNTY	26,370
CEN TEXAS MANPOWER CSRT	12,278
HIDALGO COUNTY CONSORTIUM	348,188
WEBB COUNTY	276,084
REGION VII	
KANSAS	
BALANCE OF KANSAS	462,110
KANSAS CITY CONSORTIUM	237,839
MISSOURI	
BAL OF JACKSON COUNTY	1,259
KANSAS CITY CONSORTIUM	269,151
INDEPENDENCE CITY	100,629
NEBRASKA	
LYNCOLN CITY	4,224
REGION VIII	
MONTANA	
BALANCE OF MONTANA	1,392,177
N. DAKOTA	
N. DAKOTA STATEWIDE CSRT	5,051,523

(MORE)

TITLE VI DISCRETIONARY

WYOMING	
WYOMING STATEWIDE CSRT	$235,248
REGION IX	
ARIZONA	
PHOENIX CITY	11,486
CALIFORNIA	
OAKLAND CITY	546,542
SAN FRANCISCO CITY/COUNTY	1,707,328
BAL OF LOS ANGELES CNTY	3,887,446
LOS ANGELES CITY	370,236
BALANCE OF CALIFORNIA	1,500,095
HUMBOLDT COUNTY	99,369
SOLANO COUNTY	17,351
STANISLAUS COUNTY	157,830
FRESNO CITY/COUNTY	789,834
SAN DIEGO RETC	1,608,823
HAWAII	
HAWAII BAL. OF STATE	352,225
HONOLULU CITY/COUNTY	133,628
NEVADA	
LAS VEGAS CONSORTIUM	165,916
WASHOE COUNTY	352,320
REGION X	
ALASKA	
BALANCE OF ALASKA	406,106
IDAHO	
IDAHO STATEWIDE CSRT	655,237

(more)

TITLE VI DISCRETIONARY

OREGON	
JACKSON COUNTY CONSORTIUM	$98,205
BALANCE OF OREGON	128,034
WASHINGTON	
KING/SNOHOMISH CONSORTIUM	1,132,896
KITSAP COUNTY	412,492
YAKIMA COUNTY	475,480
BALANCE OF WASHINGTON	2,559,713
NATIONAL TOTAL	$79,208,771

# # #

PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT JOB HELPS BLIND
BLACK JOURNALIST GET BACK IN HIS FIELD

CHICAGO -- "CETA has been for me a very practical means of survival. It has afforded me a steady income, a chance to do something I like and in my field."

So says Charles Jackson, a black journalist, who is today a public relations aide with Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital here.

Jackson, who was born totally blind, is among six handicapped persons hired by the hospital with funds made available under the expanded public service employment (PSE) program. Funds for the program come from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), administered by the U.S. Labor Department.

The expanded PSE program is part of President Carter's economic stimulus package.

The program at Schwab is administered by the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens and Handicapped. Schwab is believed to be the first Chicago hospital to utilize CETA funds in employing the handicapped in a rehabilitation setting.

Jackson now has functional eyesight after two series of operations on cataracts. He is considering another series of operations which could improve his eyesight to 20-20 vision.

The Chicago native, who previously had done free lance assignments primarily for the National Black Network, finds his past experience very useful.

His one-year, 20-hour a week job with Schwab pays $3.85 an hour.

Jackson emphasizes, "The important thing is that this job is helping me get back in my field and I'm confident it will lead to a full-time job here or some other place."

He also points out that his being on the job demonstrates that individuals with a physical handicap can be productive workers.

# # #

WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 1977

RTP TO TRAIN 4,080 PERSONS
FOR CONSTRUCTION JOBS

WASHINGTON -- More than 4,000 disadvantaged people, mostly minorities, veterans, and women, will be recruited for training in construction and industrial occupations by the Recruitment and Program (RTP), Inc., under a Department of Labor contract.

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Assistant Secretary of Labor Ernest G. Green announced the contract renewal which calls for projects in 31 areas with a Federal outlay of Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) funds of $5,166,541.

Most of the recruits, 3,830, will be enrolled in the apprenticeship outreach program to undergo about 10 weeks of intensive tutoring to pass an apprenticeship examination in a specific trade or craft. Special enrollment emphasis will be on black and Hispanic persons.

The remainder of the contract total, 250 persons, will be recruited from skilled craft workers who will be placed in the construction trades as union members after their skills have been upgraded and standardized. This will cost about $1,266 per trainee.

One of the target goals of the contract is to recruit women for placement in non-traditional jobs.

Under the original pre-apprentice training contract signed in 1972 and in four subsequent renewals, carpenter, electrician, operating engineer and painter

(more)

have been the four most selected careers.

Three of the 31 operating areas are new this year: Alexandria, La.; Eldorado, Ark.; and Pittsburgh, Pa.

For further information about the contract, write or call William M. Ross, Executive Director of RTP, 162 5th Ave., N.Y., N.Y., 10010, telephone (212) 691-0660 (refer to contract #99-6-111-01-22).

The Federal representative assigned to the contract is Don Olsen, ETA Office of National Programs, telephone (202) 376-7242.

A list of operating areas and estimated number of openings follows:

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Alexandria, La.	75	Hempstead, N.Y.	100
Amityville, N.Y.	75	Lexington, Ky.	75
Boston, Mass.	200	Nashville, Tenn.	125
Bridgeport, Conn.	75	New Haven, Conn.	100
Buffalo, N.Y.	100	New York City	
Charlotte, N.C.	125	Harlem	250
Cleveland, Ohio	175	Queens	100
Raleigh/Durham, N.C.	100	Bronx	125
East Chicago, Ind.	200	Brooklyn	250
Evansville, Ind.	75	Newark, N.J.	125
Eldorado, Ark.	75	Orlando/Cocoa, Fla.	200
Epes, Ala./Tupelo, Miss.	80	Pascagoula, Miss.	300
Greensboro, N.C.	75	Pittsburgh, Pa.	100
Providence, R.I.	100	Rochester, N.Y.	125

(more)

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (Continued)

Savannah, Ga.	100
Westchester County, N.Y.	75
Wilmington, N.C.	75
Youngstown, Ohio	75

JOURNEYMAN UPGRADING

Brooklyn, N.Y.	50	Hempstead, N.Y.	50
Charlotte, N.C.	25	Nashville, Tenn.	25
Evansville, Ind.	25	New Haven, Conn.	25
Harlem, N.Y.	25	Westchester County, N.Y.	25

OSHA SEEKS WORKER PROTECTION AGAINST
CHEMICAL WHICH MAY CAUSE STERILITY

WASHINGTON -- In telegrams sent to 75 companies which formulate, produce or manufacture dibromochloropropane, a pesticide which may cause sterility in male workers, the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is asking that action be taken to protect employees from exposure to the chemical.

OSHA, which is working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, will issue detailed guidelines for safe handling of the chemical soil fumigant, called DBCP, later in the week. Inhalation poses the major occupational hazard of DBCP; however, skin contact and ingestion are also hazardous. The pesticide is used on a variety of crops including cotton, soybeans, fruits, nuts and vegetables.

The Dow Chemical Company, one of the basic producers of DBCP, announced Tast Thursday it was closing its plant manufacturing DBCP in Magnolia, Ark.. The company reportedly acted after receiving information that DBCP was causing sterility in male workers in the Lathrop, Calif., plant of Occidental Chemical Company.

Dow, Shell Chemical Company (a subsidiary of Shell Oil Co.) and Occidental Chemical Company are major producers of the chemical. About 25 million pounds of DBCP are manufactured annually.

# # #

WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 1977

RAILROAD TO HIRE 432 VETERANS
UNDER FIRST HIRE AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall announced the first agreement under the President's HIRE program for veterans.

The Chicago and North Western Transportation Company, a railroad operating in 11 states out of Chicago, signed a $661,170 pact with the Labor Department to train 432 Vietnam-era veterans in 20 railroad occupations.

"It is gratifying that I can report that the first major hiring agreement has been executed," Marshall said.

"I am pleased with the response from major corporations to the National Alliance of Businessmen's efforts to get the HIRE program into high gear and begin putting unemployed veterans to work.

"NAB, after contacting many companies over the past four weeks, has secured pledges for more than 12,500 jobs from 35 firms--and this is only the beginning," he said.

The Chicago-based railroad's jobs will pay from about $6 to more than $8 an hour as starting wages.

Training time will range from 120 hours for helper categories to 25 weeks for apprenticeable occupations.

Locations of the jobs will be concentrated in four states: Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, with scattered opportunities in Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Michigan, and Missouri.

Local state employment service (ES) offices in the various states will be recruiting for the program, certifying the veterans as eligible and providing the plants with as many as required for the available openings.

Classroom and vestibule training will be conducted at the headquarters of the railroad's eight operating divisions in Chicago and Northlake, Ill.; Milwaukee and Green Bay, Wisc.; St. Paul, Minn.; Mason City and Boone, Ia.; and Chadron, Neb.

(More)

The NAB, marketing arm of the HIRE program, has been securing pledges from corporations conducting multi-plant operations all over the country to meet the program's goal of 100,000 veterans in jobs by the end of the next fiscal year, Sept. 30, 1978.

Last April, President Carter sent a personal letter to the chief executives of 450 major firms asking for their participation and support for the HIRE program.

HIRE, the acronym for Help through Industry Retraining and Employment, has $140 million allocated from Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) funds to assist companies with the training costs of the veterans they hire. The NAB and the Employment Service conduct the development, promotional, and recruitment work; the Labor Department provides the training funds when and where a firm decides that it would like to have its training costs reimbursed.

As in the former JOBS (Job Opportunities in the Business Sector) program, the NAB will be fostering many nonreimbursable HIRE programs with the private sector.

G. William Miller, chairman of the board of Textron, Inc., is national chairman of the HIRE program.

# # #

UNION WAGE RATES FOR BUILDING TRADES WORKERS
ADVANCE 3.7 PERCENT IN SECOND QUARTER OF 1977

WASHINGTON -- Average union wage rates for building trades workers in larger cities increased 3.7 percent in the second quarter of 1977, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Slightly under seven-tenths of the union members in the cities surveyed (100,000 inhabitants or more) were in bargaining units reporting rate changes between April 1 and July 1--typical activity for the second quarter since 1974. The second quarter gain, which raised the Bureau's index of wage rates for union building trades workers to 211.5 (1967=100), was slightly below the 3.9 percent advance recorded for the same period a year earlier.

Over the 12 months ended July 1, the increase was 5.8 percent--less than the 6.7 percent rise for the year ended on July 1, 1976. Excluding 1973 and early 1974 when wage controls were in effect, the increases in April and July 1977 from the previous year were the smallest for any quarter since mid-1968, when the increase was 5.5 percent. Since the third quarter of 1976, the annual rate of wage increase has hovered around 6.0 percent.

Table A. 12-month percentage increases in wages only and wages plus benefits of building trades workers, 1969-77

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
					Wages only				
First quarter -----	7.6	9.1	12.3	10.4	5.8	4.5	9.2	8.0	5.8
Second quarter ----	8.8	11.8	11.4	6.5	4.9	7.4	8.8	6.7	5.8
Third quarter -----	8.7	11.6	11.2	7.1	4.9	7.6	8.3	6.1	-
Fourth quarter ----	9.4	11.9	10.2	7.1	4.4	6.0	8.0	5.9	-
					Wages plus benefits 1/				
First quarter -----	9.0	10.2	13.5	11.8	7.0	5.6	9.9	8.8	7.0
Second quarter ----	9.9	12.9	12.2	7.3	6.0	8.2	9.8	7.9	6.7
Third quarter -----	9.6	12.9	12.7	8.2	6.2	8.2	9.6	7.4	-
Fourth quarter ----	10.6	13.0	11.6	8.2	5.5	9.6	9.1	7.1	-

1/ Benefits include employer payments for insurance, pensions, and vacations.

(More)

Annual wage-rate percentage increases declined sharply from a quarterly peak of 12.3 percent in early 1971 to 4.4 percent in late 1973. Next they rose rapidly to double that rate by late 1974-early 1975 and then declined steadily to less than 6.0 percent by the fourth quarter of 1976. Percentage increase in wages plus benefits followed the same path at somewhat higher levels--dropping below 7.0 percent this past quarter.

For workers in bargaining units with wage-rate adjustments actually going into effect in the second quarter of 1977, wage increases averaged 5.4 percent, compared with an average adjustment of 5.3 percent in the second quarter of 1976. Of those surveyed, about one-half of the members with second quarter 1977 increases had wage gains of between 4.0 and 7.0 percent. Slightly less than one-fifth of the members received increases of between 2.0 and 4.0 percent, and a similar proportion reported advances of between 7.0 and 10.0 percent.

Union wage rates in the building trades average $10.03 an hour on July 1. The addition of employer payments for health, welfare, pension and vacation plans raised the average to $12.20--increases of 4.3 percent in the second quarter of 1977 and 6.7 percent over the year. In 1976, the corresponding figures were 4.8 and 7.9 percent, respectively.

The proportion of employer contributions to employee benefit funds has more than doubled since the Bureau first developed such data in 1965. At that time, employer contributions equaled 7.1 percent of the wage-and-benefit fund package, compared with 17.8 percent on July 1, 1977.

Among the 830 bargaining units reported in the 121 cities studied, wage rate increases resulted about evenly from either newly negotiated or previously negotiated contracts. Slightly over one-fifth of the units with rate increases during the quarter also had one or more rate advances during the preceding 2 quarters.

(More)

Table 1. Union wage rates in the building trades in cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more

Trade or occupation	Hourly average, July 1, 1977	Change to July 1, 1977 from 1/:			
		April 1, 1977		July 1, 1976	
		Cents	Percent	Cents	Percent
All trades	$10.03	35.6	3.7	53.9	5.8
Bricklayers	10.45	39.8	4.0	50.3	5.1
Building laborers	7.94	34.6	4.5	46.1	6.1
Carpenters	10.22	33.0	3.4	50.7	5.3
Electricians	11.13	42.8	4.0	69.2	6.6
Painters	9.87	22.7	2.4	56.9	6.2
Plasterers	10.06	36.2	3.7	49.8	5.2
Plumbers	10.87	45.9	4.4	60.9	5.9

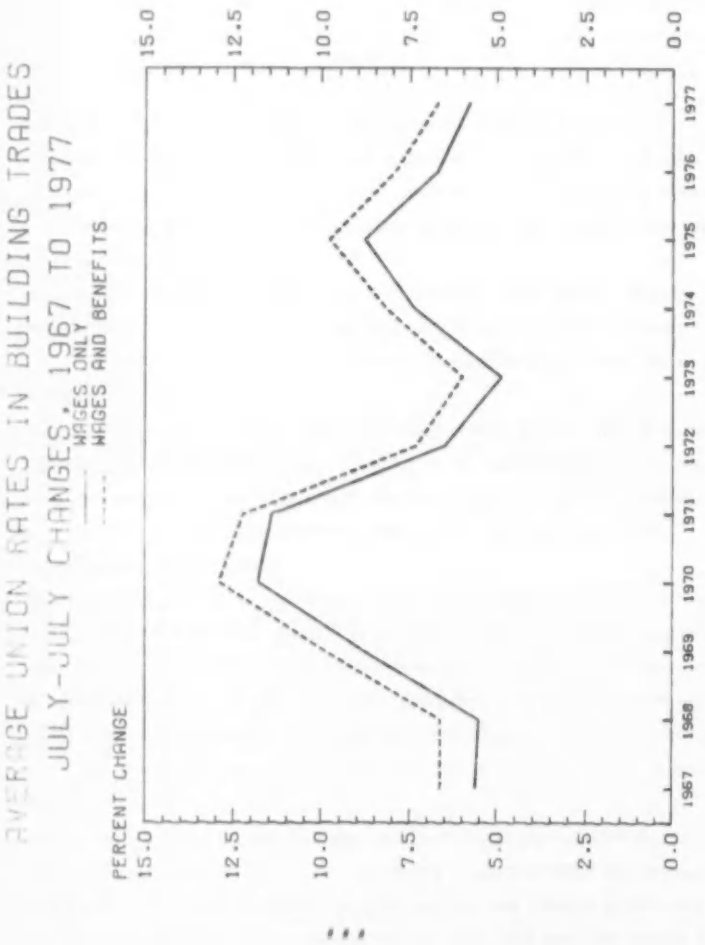
1/ In computing changes in wage rates, increases in each trade were averaged among all workers in the trade, including those that did not receive wage rate increases.

Table 2. Union wage rates plus employer payments to specified worker benefit funds in the building trades in cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more

Trade or occupation	Hourly average, July 1, 1977	Change to July 1, 1977 from 1/:			
		April 1, 1977		July 1, 1976	
		Cents	Percent	Cents	Percent
All trades	$12.20	50.2	4.3	75.6	6.7
Bricklayers	12.65	54.9	4.5	70.4	5.9
Building laborers	9.81	45.1	4.8	59.5	6.5
Carpenters	12.37	45.6	3.8	69.2	5.9
Electricians	13.44	72.9	5.7	112.5	9.2
Painters	11.42	33.0	3.0	76.9	7.3
Plasterers	11.95	48.6	4.2	71.6	6.4
Plumbers	13.59	57.2	4.4	83.4	6.5

1/ See footnote 1, table 1.

(More)



# # #

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- JULY 1977

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent in July before seasonal adjustment to 182.6 (1967=100), the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. The July CPI was 6.7 percent higher than in July 1976.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI also rose 0.4 percent in July, noticeably less than the average monthly increase of 0.7 percent recorded during the first half of this year. This slowdown was primarily due to food prices which increased 0.1 percent after moving up rapidly in the first 6 months of this year.

Prices of commodities other than food also contributed to the slowdown in July, increasing 0.1 percent. Charges for services however, rose 0.8 percent in July, about the same as the increases in each of the preceding 6 months.

The index for food purchased in grocery stores declined 0.1 percent in July after seasonal adjustment. This decline--the first since last November--was due to lower prices for beef, poultry, pork, fresh fruits and vegetables, sugar, and ground coffee.

Pork and sugar prices declined for the first time this year. On the other hand, egg prices rose sharply in July after declining for 4 months. Prices continued to rise for other foods such as dairy products, cereal and bakery products, fats and oil products, and processed fruits and vegetables.

Pork and sugar prices declined for the first time this year. Coffee prices declined slightly after advancing steadily for almost 2 years. On the other hand, egg prices rose sharply in July after declining for 4 months. Prices continued to rise for other foods such as dairy products, cereal and bakery products, fats and oil products, and processed fruits and vegetables.

The index for food away from home--restaurant meals and snacks--rose 0.4 percent in July after seasonal adjustment, less than half the average monthly increase in the first 6 months of this year.

The index for commodities other than food increased 0.1 percent in July and 0.2 percent in June, compared with increases of 0.4 percent in each of the 3 preceding months and about 0.7 percent early this year.

The slowdown this summer can be attributed primarily to declines in used cars and gasoline prices. After seasonal adjustment, the used car index declined 2.7 percent in July, 2.2 percent in June, and 1.3 percent in May. The gasoline and motor oil index declined 0.3 percent in July, about the same as in June.

Prices rose in July for most other nonfood commodities; however, the increases were

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relatively moderate--0.1 percent for household durables, 0.2 percent for new cars, and 0.3 percent for apparel. The index for fuel oil and coal increased 0.6 percent in July, the smallest rise this year.

In the services component, the index for household services other than rent rose 1.2 percent in July; this was a larger rise than in recent months as mortage interest costs and charges for natural gas and electricity increased sharply. The rent rose 0.6 percent in July, compared with 0.5 percent in June and 0.4 percent in May.

The index for medical care services rose 0.7 percent in July, about the same as in June and less than the 0.9 percent increases in May and in April. The index for transportation services increased 0.4 percent in July, about half as much as in each of the preceding 4 months.

# # #

REAL EARNINGS IN JULY 1977

WASHINGTON -- Real earnings of full and part-time workers in production or nonsupervisory jobs in the private nonfarm sector of the economy decreased from June to July, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

(Real earnings--or earnings in constant dollars--are calculated by adjusting earnings in current dollars for changes in the Consumer Price Index. The July figures are preliminary ones.)

Real gross-average weekly earnings decreased 0.1 percent from June to July after allowance for the usual seasonal variation. A 0.4 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index combined with a 0.3 percent decrease in average weekly hours offset the 0.6 percent increase in average hourly earnings.

Over the year, real average weekly earnings were up 0.6 percent. Average hourly earnings increased 7.6 percent, counteracting a 0.3 percent decrease in average weekly hours and a 6.7 percent rise in the Consumer Price Index. (Before adjustment for the increase in the Consumer Price Index and seasonal change, average weekly earnings were $190.90 in July, compared with $177.88 a year earlier.)

Real spendable earnings--average real weekly pay of all workers reduced by Social Security and federal income tax rates applicable to a married worker with three dependents who earned the average amount--decreased 0.1 percent from the June level, seasonally adjusted. This decrease was due to the 0.1 percent decline in real gross average weekly earnings.

Over the year, real spendable earnings increased 3.5 percent as a result of both the 0.6 percent increase in real gross average weekly earnings and the reduction in federal income taxes which went into effect June 1, 1977.

The Hourly Earnings Index in dollars of constant purchasing power increased 0.2 percent from June. Compared with a year ago, the index increased 0.1 percent. The index excludes the effects of overtime in manufacturing and of interindustry shifts, such as the shift of workers between high-wage and low-wage industries.

# # #

WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 1977

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

A total of 210 organizations -- 173 unions and 37 professional and state employee associations -- are listed in the "Directory of National Unions and Employee Associations," published by the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* * *

The Labor Management Relations (Taft-Hartley) Act was extended to workers in private nonprofit hospitals Aug. 25, 1974, according to the "Directory of National Unions and Employee Associations," published by the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* * *

The AFL-CIO Public Employee Department received its charter from the AFL-CIO Executive Council Nov. 6, 1974, according to the "Directory of National Unions and Employee Associations" of the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* * *

More than 3,000 representatives of 58 labor unions met during March 1974 to form the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), according to the "Directory of National Unions and Employee Associations" of the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* * *

Membership in the Nation's 212 labor unions and professional and state employee associations totalled 24.2 million in 1974, an increase of 1.1 million over 1972, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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